**Steps to a Greener Classroom for Class Parents**

Thanks for being a vital part of MSC’s Wellness & Green initiatives! You can be a huge support in class on driving the recycling mission forward. You’ll find that the students are really enthusiastic about being “Green”; they just need some support and reinforcement. For classes that eat in the class room, a system for bottles/metal/beverage carton recycling must be established. All classes have a paper & trash receptacles. All bottles/metal/beverage cartons have to be taken the receptacle near the elevators. Every floor has one. I assign "Green Team" leaders in each class presentation that I do. Those leaders are asked to be responsible to getting the recycling to the right place. You may want to sit in on a lunch with the class one day soon and help monitor the recyclables. We encourage the kids to take as much control of it as possible – AND they really enjoy making a difference. I suggest having the "Green Team" collect juice/milk cartons (no straws!), foil and plastic/glass bottles to go out to the hall receptacle at the end of every lunch. They can use a small bin or even a plastic bag (we recycle those as well). We Terracycle (see list below), so those materials can be taken to the Recycling tower on the 3rd fl. at the same time or whenever is best for the class. You could even have the class decorate a box or receptacle of their choice. Let them make it a project for themselves. There’s more ownership and it's more fun that way.

**MSC TERRACYCLES!**

We participate in the collection *Brigades* of:

-All Writing Instruments

-Yogurt Containers (6 oz & 32 oz wide mouth) *rinsed please!*

-Energy bar/Granola bar Wrappers

-Drink Pouches *empty with no straws!*

-Elmer’s glue Containers & glue sticks

-Scotch Tape dispensers

Remember, this is a FUNDRAISER. The Terracycle/Recycling Center is on the 3rd floor next to East Elevators.

The Recycling Center also accepts:

-plastic caps

-plastic bags

-ink cartridges

**How to pack a Waste Free Lunch**

* Use a lunch box or reusable lunch bag
* Use reusable containers, wraps or a Thermos for Sandwiches, soups and Salads
* Pack a reusable utensil, cloth napkin and water bottle
* Buy in bulk and avoid individually wrapped items whenever possible

Our mission this year at MSC is to change the way we think about food, physical activity and environmental health so as to increase our wellness as a community.

Here are some additional reminders on how the green class parent can help:

* Recycling: Make sure your class has the proper trash and recycling receptacles. Talk to your teacher. Find out what s/he is doing in the classroom and work together to make sure the children understand how to use the recycling bins in their classroom. Encourage students and their families to bring in appropriate items for terracycling, a great way to reduce landfill and raise money for MSC! Work out a schedule within the classroom to collect recyclables and drop off at the MSC Recycling Center.
* Composting: Is your teacher interested in composting in the classroom? If so then let us know and we can get one of our composting specialists in to the class to get you set up. You and your teacher(s), along with the students, will monitor what goes on in your compost bin. Again, training will be offered and the Wellness and Green Team Committee is always available for questions or a classroom visit.
* Encourage healthy food consumption. The new MSC Healthy Snacks policy has been distributed and is in effect school wide. However, many parents may not be aware of the changes or may need help in figuring out how to implement the policy. Talk to the parents in your class. Remind them that sugary, processed snacks are not in the best interest of our children. So for snacks, special days, or other class-wide activities or functions, please remind parents to not supply processed, sugary foods or drinks (ie: dunkin donuts, Doritos, etc). We are happy to offer guidance and suggestions if your class has questions. Don’t hesitate to ask us.
* Waste Reduction: Using re-usable containers or sandwich wraps helps to reduce waste as does using re-usable utensils and not plastic “sporks”. Have conversations with the students and parents in your class. Send reminders in the emails you send to your class. Talk to them at class gatherings. And, make sure they know they can purchase reusable lunch containers from the Wellness Committee and that the proceeds go directly back to our school. Monitor what happens at lunch and if you need help from the Wellness and Green Team we will be happy to come to your classroom.

* Make sure all children are using a water bottle or reusable cup. Offer to take the cups home and wash them or ask other parents to help out. Remind the parents and students in your class not to use the plastic disposable cups in the room.

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